A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

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6th June 92
No 121 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS MINIATURE DIECAST ENGINE

ERTL®

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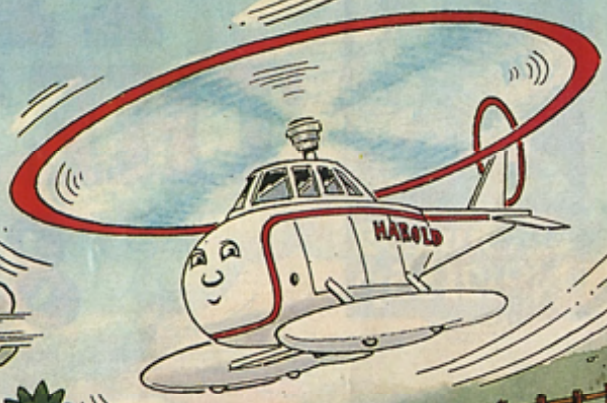
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! James is a fine red engine with a brass shiny dome. James is usually given very important jobs to do on the Fat Controller's railway. However, even very important engines sometimes need help! In the story that begins on page 3, James discovers that he may need help very quickly indeed! Which one of Thomas's friends can help James most quickly? Peep! Peep!



SPLENDID COMPETITIONS!

Don't miss our next issue (122) of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. You can enter **2** exciting competitions! *ERTL (UK) Ltd* are offering you a chance to win their new **6** and **4 piece playset** as well as their **3 piece miniature playset**! Turn to **page 7** of this issue for further information on availability of *ERTL* toys!

Additionally! ***Dekker toys*** are offering **10** lucky winners the chance to win a selection of their fabulous new range of products, which includes a splendid **Playhouse, Back pack** and **picture blocks**! Turn to **page 12** for full details!

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS OFFER!

We hope you like your splendid free gift with this issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**! You can receive a similar gift when you subscribe to **Thomas's fortnightly magazine**. So don't delay, Subscribe today!Turn to **page 16** for full details!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

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Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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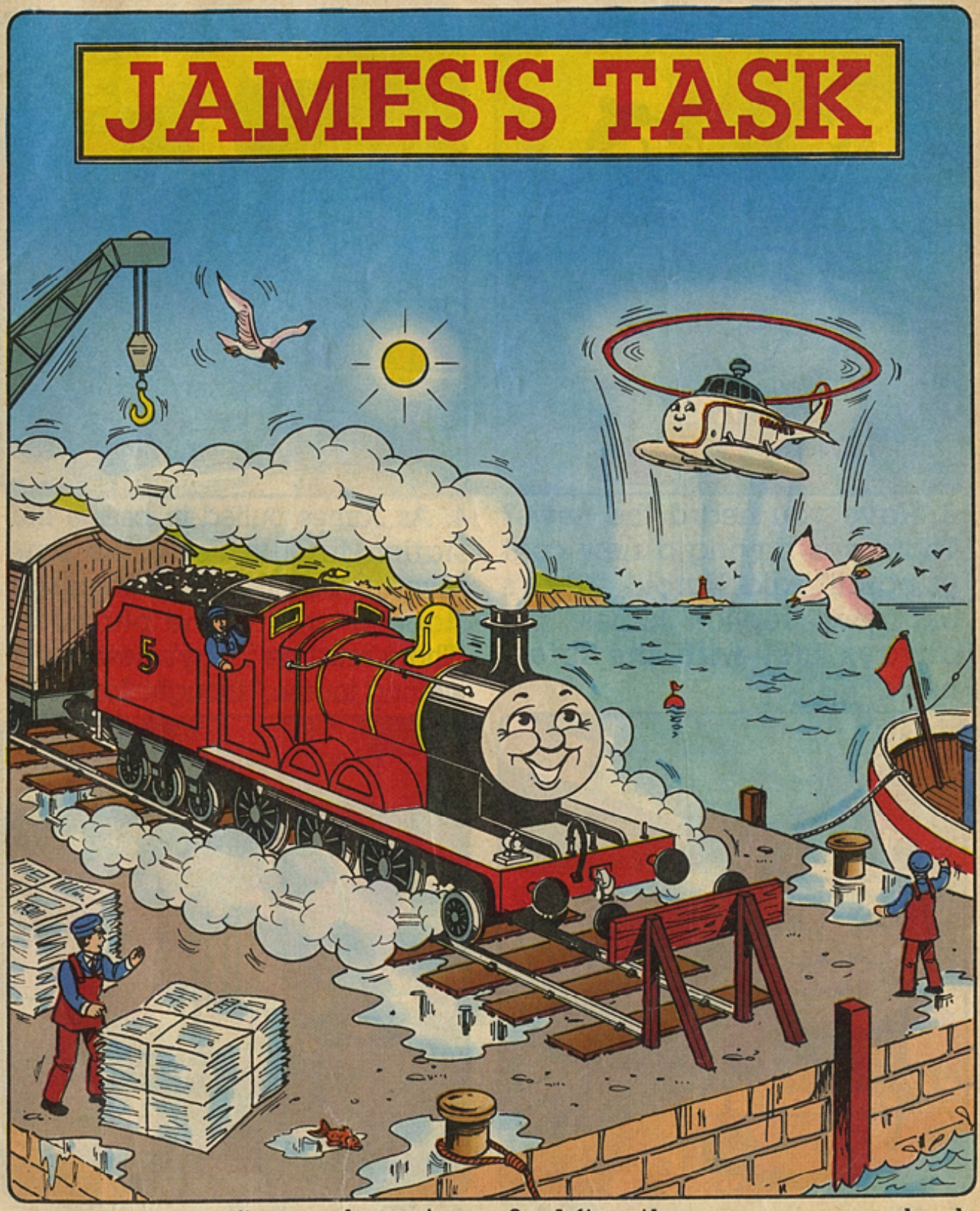
JAMES'S TASK



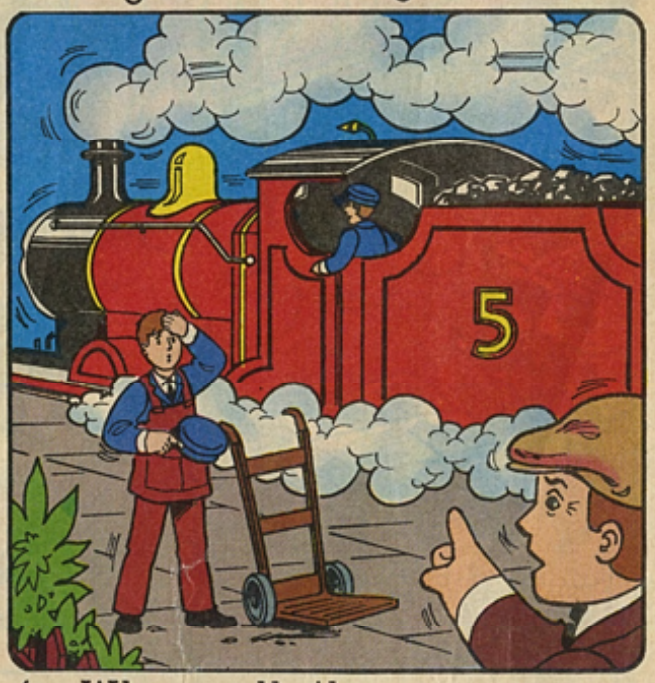
1. James is a fine red engine who works very hard on the Fat Controller's railway. One morning, James had the very important job of collecting newspapers from the Jetty.

2. After the newspapers had been delivered by boat from the mainland, James collected and delivered them to the shopkeepers on the Island of Sodor. Harold flew overhead.

3."Have you heard the news? Thomas is having a new coat of paint!" said Harold. "That's old news!" replied James. "I'm always first with the latest news."

4. As James pulled in beside the station for the Jetty, he saw several bundles of newspapers stacked around the platform. "Those must be today's newsapers waiting for me," thought James.

5. "Please hurry and load the newspapers," James called impatiently. The heavy bundles were loaded onto a truck. "I mustn't be late with the news!" said James.

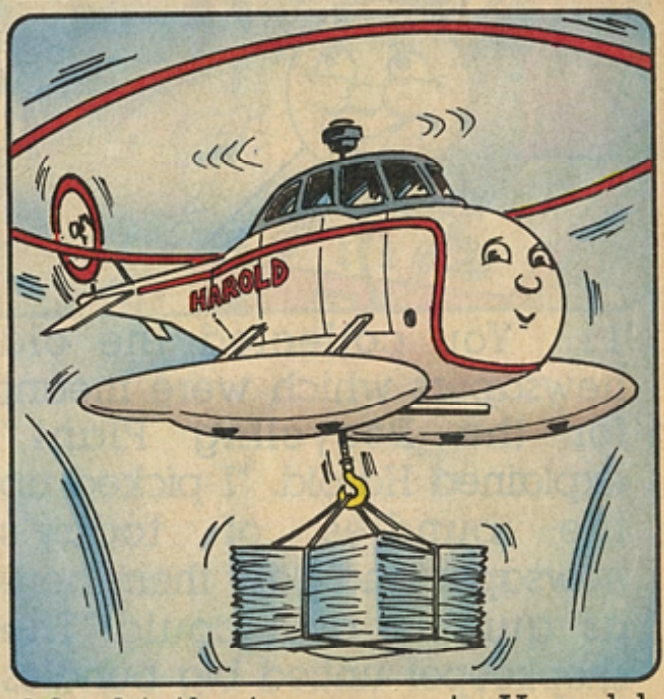


6. When all the newspaper bundles were loaded, James steamed away. The workman mopped his brow after all his hard work. Suddenly, he saw a man approaching.

7. "Excuse me," said the man. "I'm from the Paper Recycling Plant. I've to collect the old newspapers from the harbour." "Old newspapers?" said the workman. "Oh dear, there's been a mix-up."

8. Meanwhile, James had travelled a long way with the wrong newsapers. "I've got to hurry," he chuffed. "It's important that the people get the latest news on time.

9. James reached the Main Station and his driver unloaded the bundles of newpapers to be delivered to the newsagents. "These are old newspapers!" said the shopkeeper.



10. At that moment, Harold flew overhead. "Don't worry, James! I've brought today's newspapers for you." It was Harold the Helicopter, lowering the newsapers on a rope.

11. "You collected the old newsapers which were meant for the Recycling Plant," explained Harold. "I picked up the bundles of today's newsaper and flew them here as quickly as I could."The shopkeeper untied big bundles of the new newsapers as Harold lowered them gently to the ground.

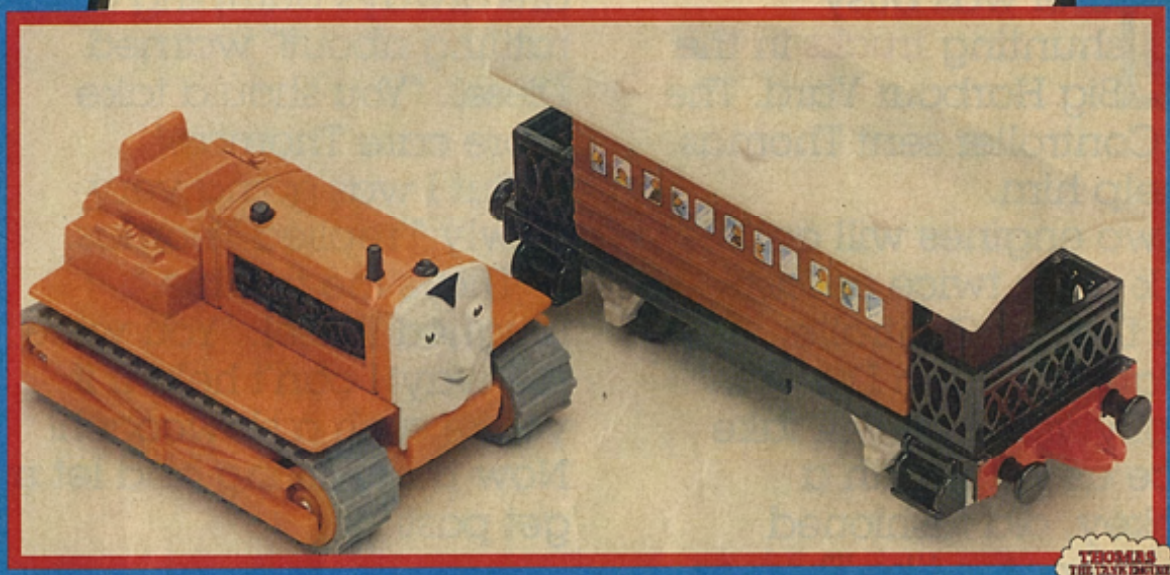
12. "Thank you very much, Harold," the shopkeeper called after Harold. "My customers wouldn't have liked getting old newsapers."Once the bundles of old newsapers had been pulled aboard Harold, he flew off once more. "I'll take these old newspapers to the Recycling Plant for re-use," he called smiling. "You weren't first with the news today, James!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the cross country race!

PEEP PEEP

TERENCE & HENRIETTA



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AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL TOY SHOP OR STORE

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Not recommended for children under 36 months

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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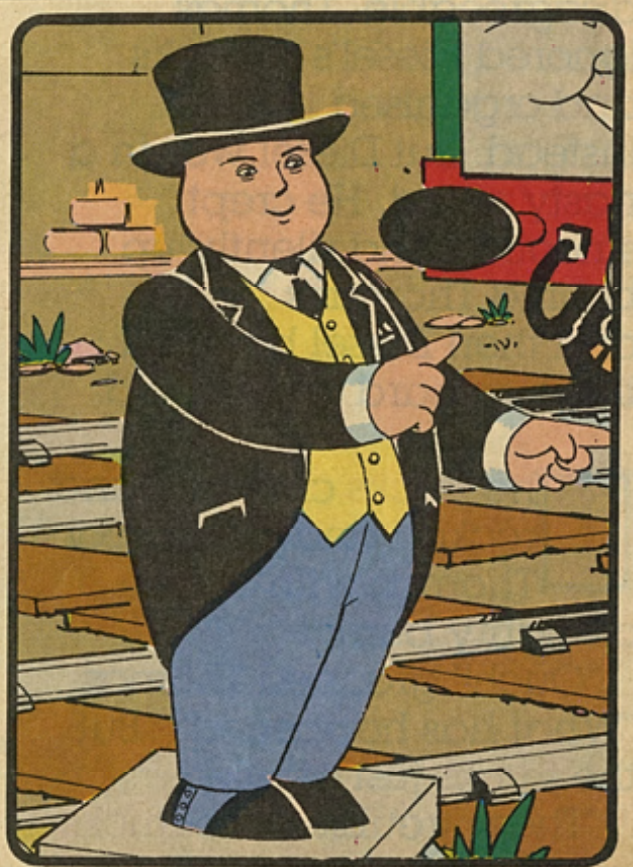


BUMPS AND BUFFERS

Diesel was busy shunting trucks in the Big Harbour Yard. The Fat Controller sent Thomas to help him.

"Two engines will get the work done twice as fast!" said the Fat Controller.

"Pah! muttered Diesel in his oily voice. "It will take twice as long, with a smokey, old fashioned steam engine like Thomas under my wheels!" Thomas was cross when he heard what Diesel had been saying. He didn't like working with engines who were rude and disagreeable. Thomas ignored Diesel's remarks and organised trucks instead. But Diesel was in a nasty mood. He crept smoothly and silently up behind Thomas's trucks, and then Diesel bumped them as hard as he could.

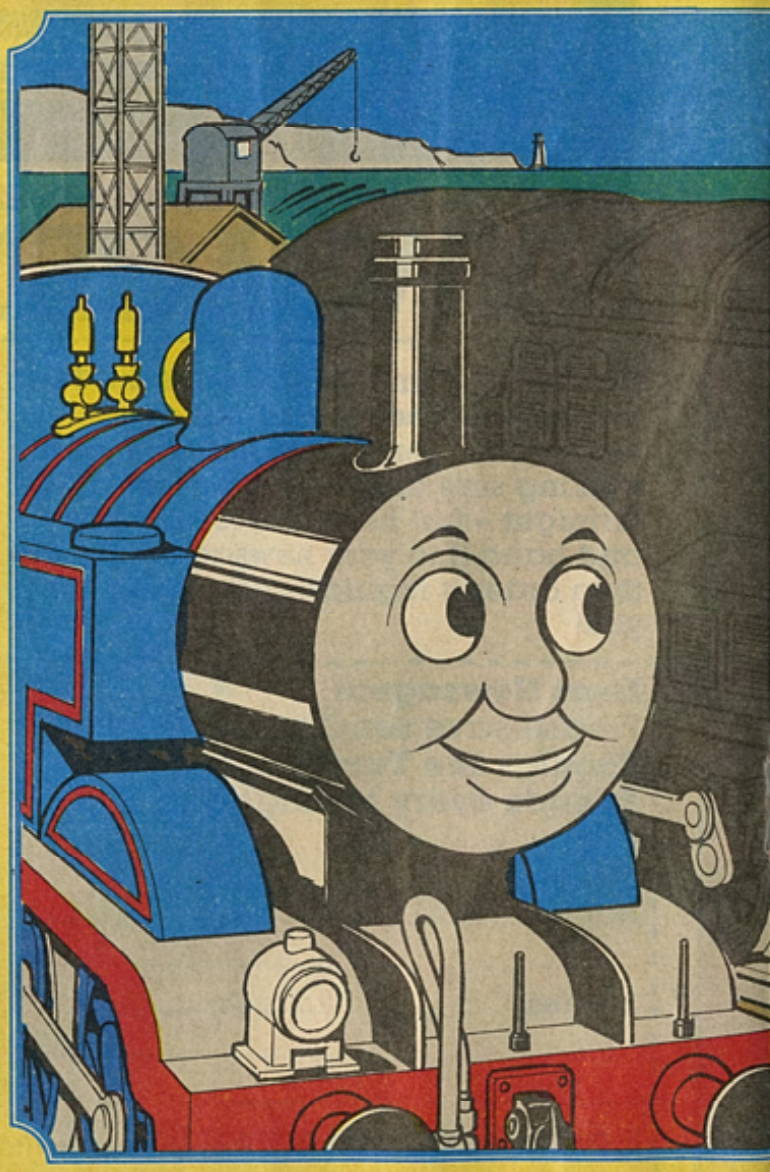
The trucks clattered and rocked and jolted poor Thomas with an almighty bump!

"Ouch!" groaned Thomas. "What has happened?" But the trucks just giggled.

"Those troublesome trucks are always bumping and rattling about!" warned Diesel. "You should take more care Thomas."

"But I was going very slowly," replied Thomas.

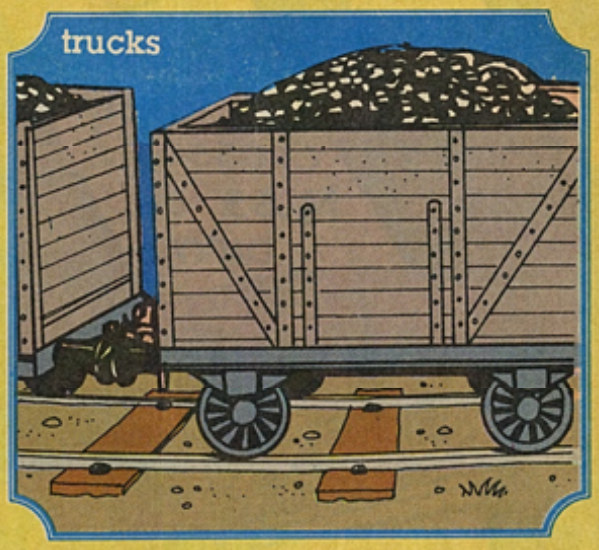
"That's the trouble," laughed Diesel. "You were in the way! I can't help it if you're such a slowcoach! Now hurry along and let me get past!"



"Buffers and boilers!" puffed Thomas. "That big bullying Diesel bumped my trucks on purpose!" Then Thomas had a strange tickling feeling deep down inside his funnel.

"Oh, dear! I'm going to... a-pheeeep!" sneezed Thomas loudly, just as Diesel slid past him on into a siding.

Thomas sneezed so hard he blew a big cloud of sooty smoke from his funnel.



"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas. That feels much better. The cloud of sooty smoke from Thomas's funnel blew all over Diesel and stung his eyes!

"Gah! Grooh!" grumbled Diesel. "I can't see for soot!" A short distance ahead of Diesel on the siding, there was a big pile of earth.

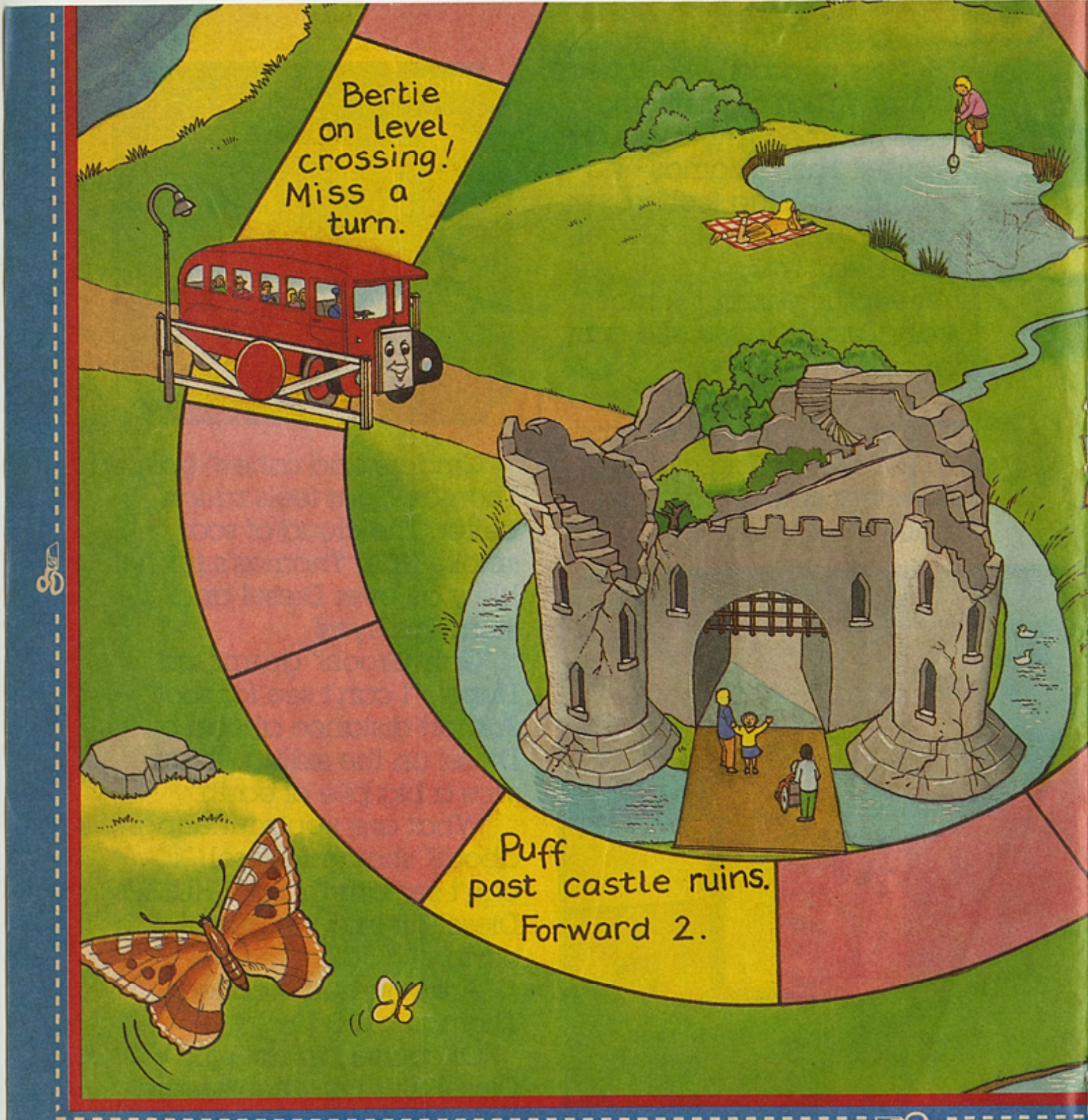
"What are you muttering about!" shouted Diesel. "I can't see anything!" THUMP! Diesel hit into the pile of earth.

"Are you hurt?" called Thomas.

"Of course I'm not said Diesel. But his wheels were very muddy and he felt very shaken.

"Having a nasty bump isn't much fun" Diesel sighed. And he made up his mind not to play any more boisterous tricks on Thomas.

THE END!



THOMAS'S Game Part 2

This is the second part of **Thomas's dice game**. Be sure not to miss the next two issues of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for the third and fourth parts! Stick this double page on to thin card and cut the blue border off along the dotted lines and cut out your second counter. This part of the game will fit below the part from our last issue - the edges will overlap slightly, but you can trim them to fit exactly!

Loose track. Throw a 5 to continue

Grass fire by track! Go back 3.

Can you see Bertie the bus?
What colour is he?
Point to the grass fire!
How many yachts can you see?
Point to the big butterfly!
Can you see the castle ruins?
Point to the fishing pond!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

LOOK WHAT'S COMING YOUR WAY!

A Splendid Flag...
With

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

In issue 122! On Sale 8th June 1992. Don't miss it!

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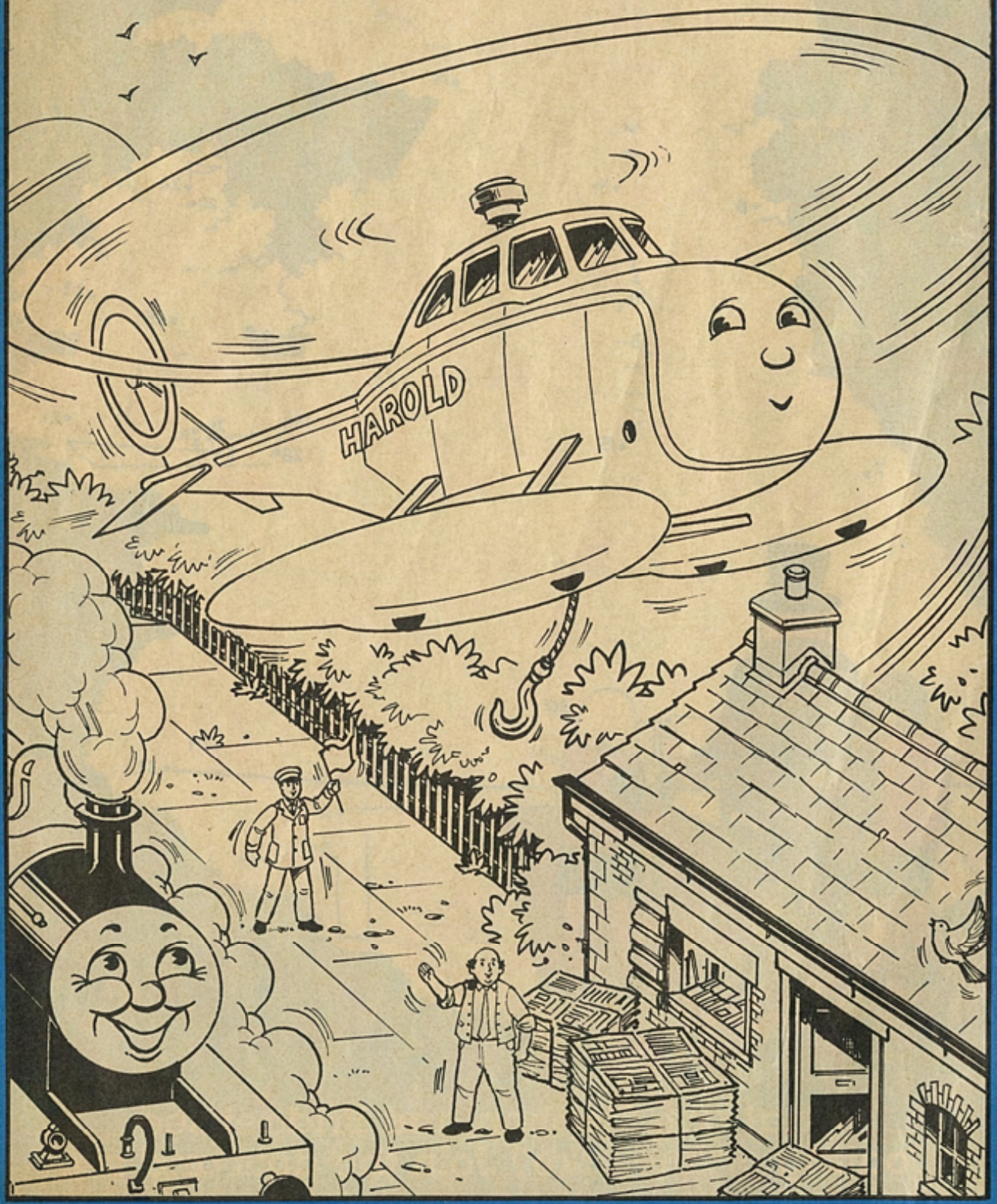
In issues 122 & 123! On Sale 8th and 22nd June!

JOIN THE DOTS!

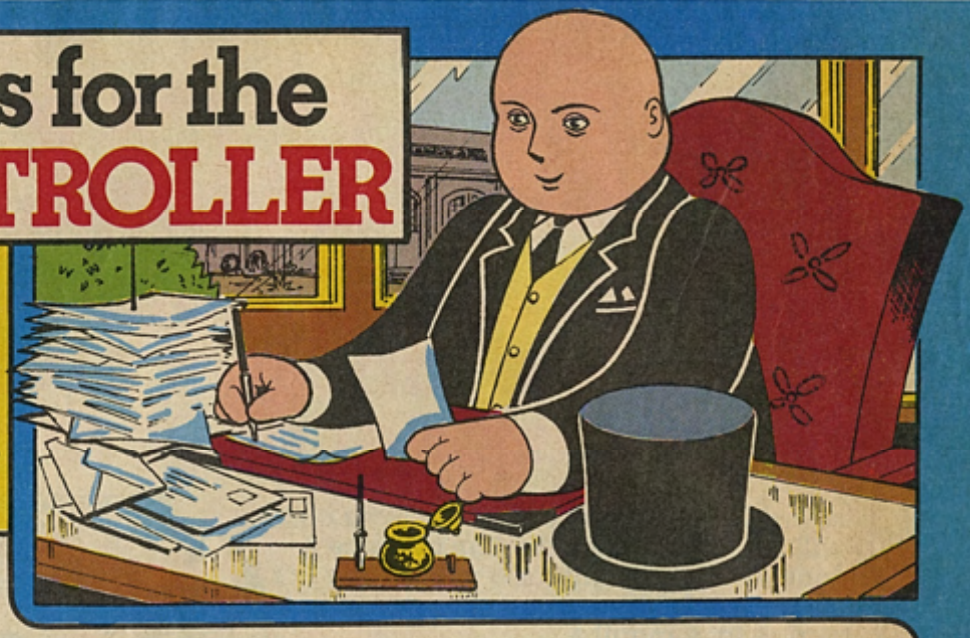
What can Stephen and Bridget see floating on the lake? Join the dots and see what you make!

COLOURING TIME!

Harold has worked very hard today, helping James on his way! So you can colour them in without further delay!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
1 is for Thomas who's small and blue,
2 is for Edward who'll stop and talk to you,
3 is for Henry who's green and proud.
4 is for Gordon who's fast and loud!
5 is for James who's dome is made of brass,
6 is for Percy who always gets home last!
Love from **Azmi Sbaiti.**

Your verse is really splendid,
We wish it had never ended,
For this you have won a splendid prize,
To write again would be wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

MISCHIEVOUS TWINS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Gran and Granpa took me to see a Model Railway Exhibition. We saw Thomas and all his friends there. Bill and Ben chased each other around the tracks!
Love from **Luke Crawford,** aged 2.

It does sound as though Bill and Ben were being very mischievous at the Railway Exhibition but I am really pleased that you had an enjoyable day there!

SCENIC MEADOWS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy was reading some stories about Thomas to me as I looked out of the kitchen window. I thought about how nice it would be if Thomas would take Annie and Clarabel passed our meadow which has wild rabbits living there!
Love from **Lucille,** aged 3.

My! My! You do live in a very pretty meadow! I'm sure Thomas and Annie and Clarabel would very much enjoy puffing through there as they love the countryside on the Island of Sodor!

BIRTHDAYS!

Josua Ford (36831), David John Evans, Chris Crowder, Thomas Milne (30367), David John Quick (29951), Christopher Durnford (35288), Kathryn Slevin (33942), William Dunn (38020), Aaron Robert Jeffrigs (30823).

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
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London WC2.

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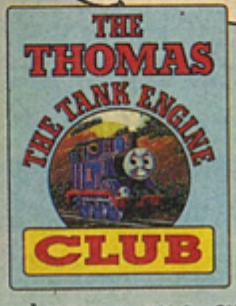

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Signature.....Date.....

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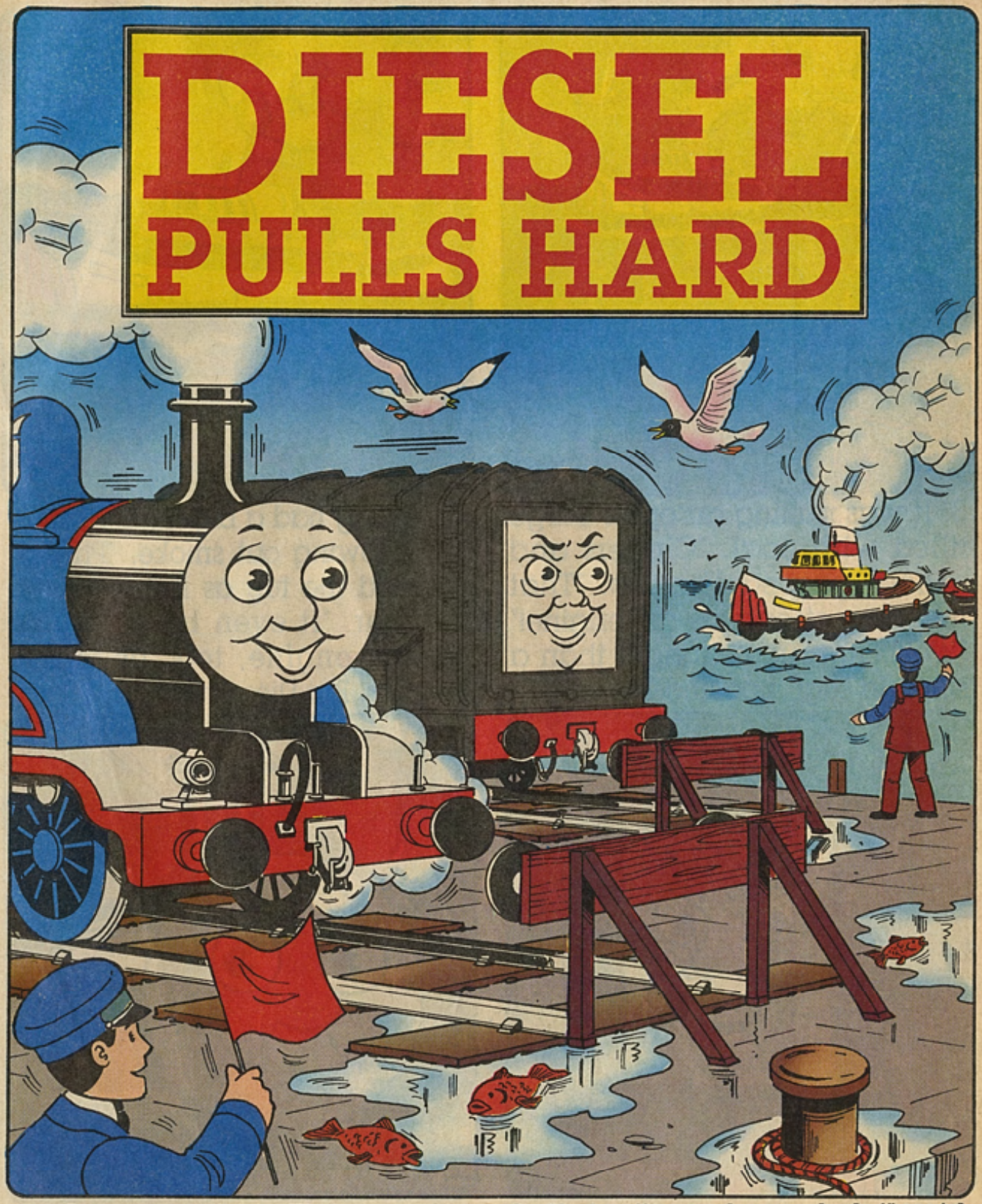
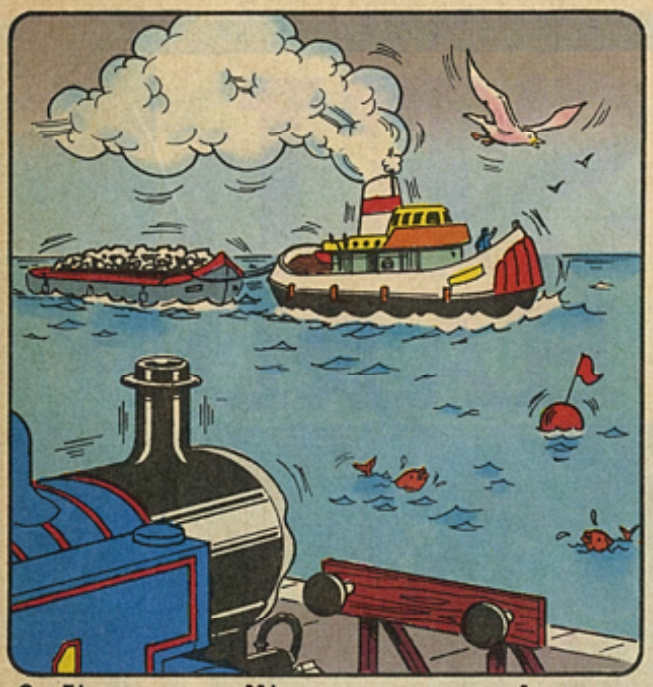
DIESEL PULLS HARD

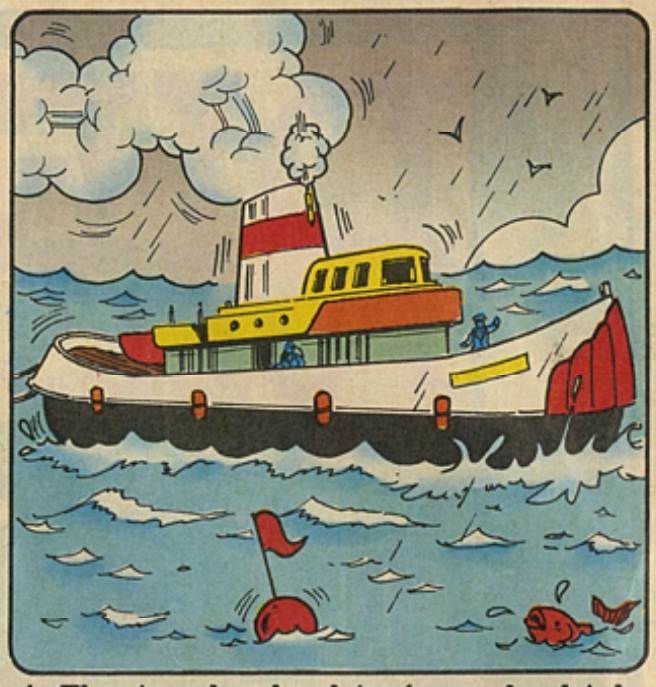


1. One morning, Thomas was sent to the Big Harbour. A large shipment of coal had arrived and Thomas was to help Diesel take it back to the Main Station Yard.

2. "I don't need any help!" said Diesel in his oily voice. "I am a strong engine. I can pull the coal trucks on my own!" Thomas waited beside the harbour. A big tug boat was approaching.



3. It was pulling an open barge filled with coal. "Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas. "That tug is as strong as an engine!" "Well! I'm much stronger than a silly old tug!" boasted Diesel.

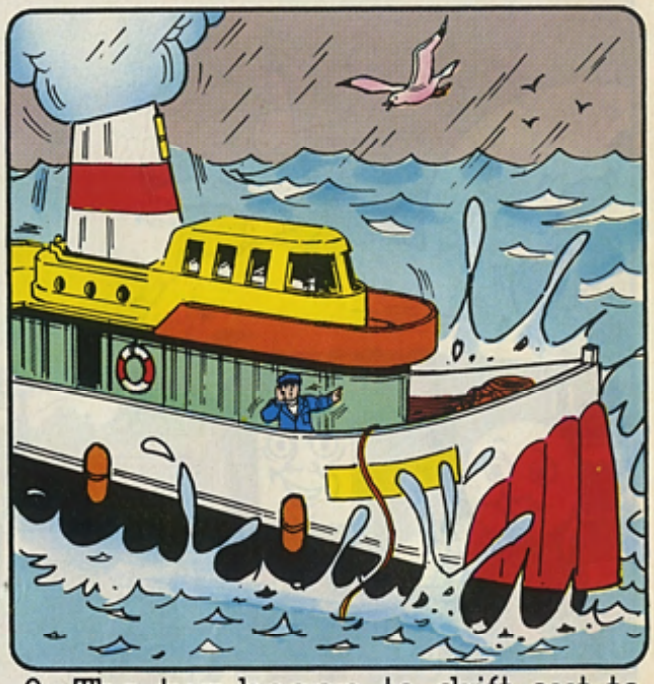


4. The tug had a big funnel which was blowing out smoke. "Pheep!" whistled the tug as it neared the harbour. "It even blows smoke like an engine, too!" chuckled Thomas. But Diesel was cross.

5. "Look at that dirty smoke!" snapped Diesel, grumpily. "That tug should try and behave like a modern, clean diesel engine." The tug was tied up beside the harbour.

6. It was becoming very windy now and big drops of rain had begun to fall. The tug began to sway from side to side and Thomas looked on anxiously. "Look at the waves!" gasped Thomas!

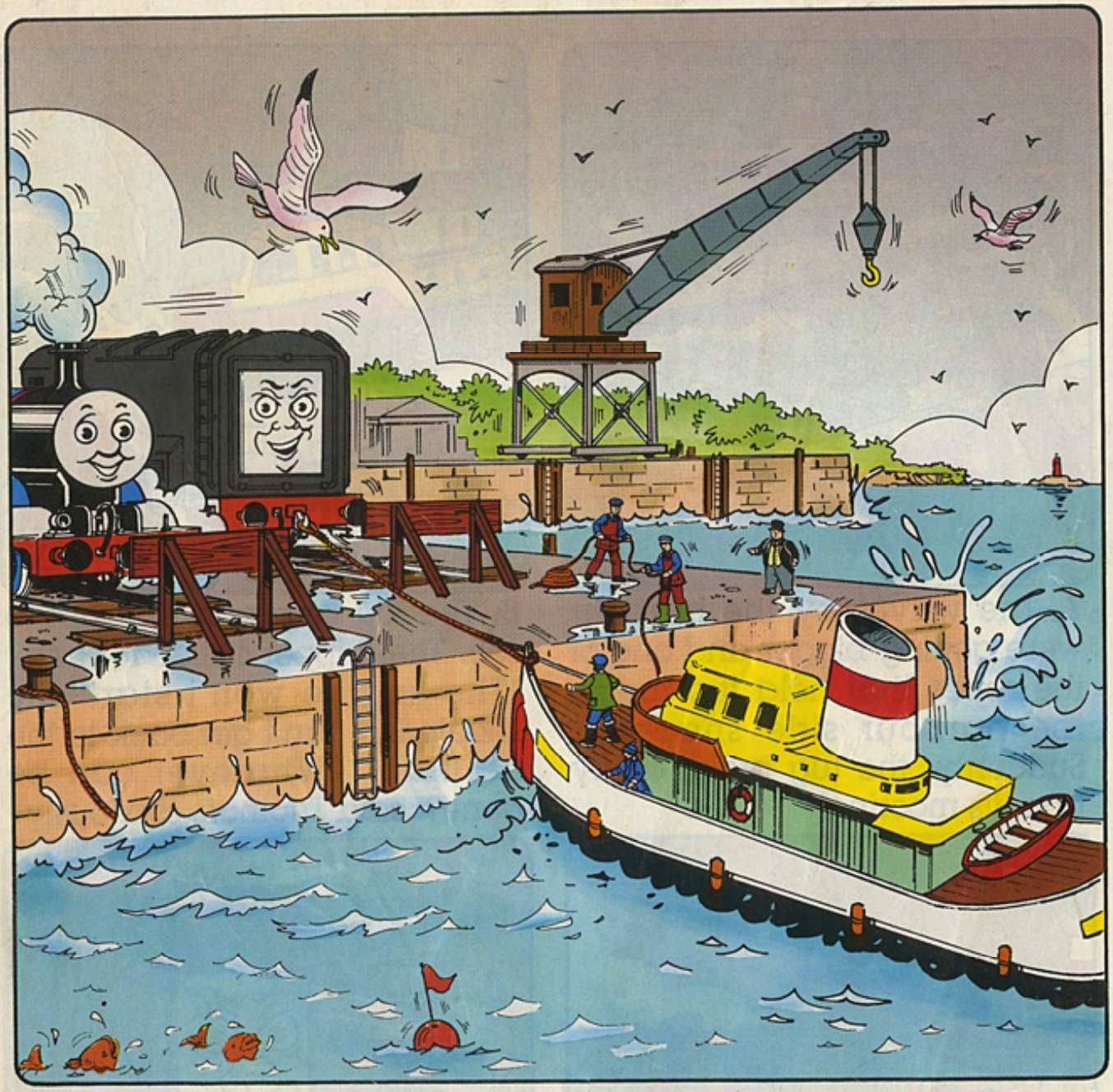
7. The waves by the harbour were getting bigger and one of the ropes that held the tug to the harbour side snapped. Suddenly, the tug broke away from its mooring!



8. The tug began to drift out to sea. The skipper called for help. "The engine won't start!" he shouted. "I can't get back to the harbour!" "Whatever can be done?" said Thomas, anxiously.

9. Diesel's driver had an idea. Thomas was moved into a siding so Diesel could roll up to the harbour's edge. A rope was thrown towards him from the tug.

10. The Harbour Stationmaster quickly tied the rope to Diesel's front coupling. "I suppose someone must help that filthy tug get back into the harbourside!" grumbled Diesel.



11. "Not even you can do that, Diesel!" said Thomas. "That's what you think! Just you wait and see!" replied Diesel. "I told you I'm stronger than a silly little tug boat!" Slowly, Diesel backed up. The rope between his coupling and the tug creaked and strained as Diesel pulled harder and harder. "Horrors!" cried Thomas. "I hope that rope doesn't break!"

12. Diesel's motor groaned and spluttered as he pulled on the rope. Though the waves tried to drag the tug boat out to sea, Diesel hauled on the rope with all his might and pulled the tug back to the harbour edge. The tug was tied up safely while it waited for its engine to be repaired. Soon the Fat Controller arrived. "You're a Really Useful Engine!" he told Diesel.

THE END

In our next issue: Diesel and the Saddletank Twins!